

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An image printing system formed by connecting, through a network, a plurality of image printing apparatuses, each having image reading means for reading an image from an original to obtain image data, image printing means for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of the image data, and first image processing means for performing image processing for the image data, and an information processing apparatus having second image processing means for performing image processing for the image data, wherein

at least one of said image printing apparatus apparatuses further comprises apparatus ID storage means for storing an apparatus ID which specifies ~~said image~~ a self image printing apparatus that comprises said apparatus ID storage means, and

first image data transmission means for transmitting, to said information processing apparatus, image data to be output, an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and a transfer destination address which is an address of a remote image printing apparatus to which the image data is to be transferred,

said information processing apparatus further comprises

first image data reception means for receiving image data, an apparatus ID, and a transfer destination address from said first image data transmission means, and

second image data transmission means for transmitting the image data received by said first image data reception means and the apparatus ID to the transfer destination address received by said first image data reception means, and

the least one of said image printing apparatus apparatuses further comprises

external data output limitation setting means for setting a limitation associated with image printing of image data which is transferred from an apparatus as a transfer source other than said the self image printing apparatus,

second image data reception means for receiving image data and an apparatus ID from said second image data transmission means in said information processing apparatus, and

control means for determining whether or not the transfer source of said image data is the self image printing apparatus by confirming whether or not the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID which specifies the self image printing apparatus stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when ~~the apparatus IDs do not coincide with each other~~ said transfer source of said image data is not the self image printing apparatus, causing said image printing means to print an image based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of a limitation set by said external data output limitation setting means.

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said external data output limitation setting means can set at least two kinds of settings including "always permitting output operation" and "always inhibiting output operation".

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein

said external data output limitation setting means comprises limit value setting means which can set at least "limit addition" and sets a limit value of the "limit addition", and

said control means permits output operation until an output print count reaches the limit value set by said limit value setting means, and inhibits output operation when the output print count reaches the limit value.

4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein

at least one of said image printing ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses further comprises user authentication means for authenticating a user as an operator and user-specific output limitation setting means for setting an output limitation for each user,

said first image data transmission means also transmits, to said information processing apparatus, ~~also~~ user information of a user who has operated output operation for image data transmitted by said first image data transmission means,

said first image data reception means also receives the user information from said first image data transmission means,

said second image data transmission means also transmits the user information received by said first image data reception means to the transfer destination address received by said first image data reception means,

said second image data reception means receives the user information from said second image data transmission means, and

said control means determines whether or not the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus IDs coincide with each other, performs control to make said image printing means print an image based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of the limitation set by said user-specific output limitation setting means.

5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 4, wherein the control performed by said control means with respect to an output limitation when the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with the apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means is the same as control that would be performed with respect to the ~~on an output limitation which is performed when~~ if an image based on image data is were to be printed in the at least one of said image printing apparatus apparatuses without the mediacy of said information processing means.

6. (Original) A system according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies a user who has operated output operation for the image data of corresponding information.

7. (Currently Amended) A system according to any one of claims 1 to 5 [[6]], wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies an administrator of corresponding information.

8. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein said control means performs the notification by e-mail.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to any one of claims 1 to 5 [[8]], wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies an image printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image data of corresponding information, and said image printing apparatus further comprises display means for displaying information indicating reception of the notification.

10. (New) A system according to claim 2, wherein
said external data output limitation setting means comprises limit value setting means which can set at least "limit addition" and sets a limit value of the "limit addition",
and

said control means permits output operation until an output print count reaches the limit value set by said limit value setting means, and inhibits output operation when the output print count reaches the limit value.

11. (New) A system according to claim 2, wherein

at least one of said image printing apparatuses further comprises user authentication means for authenticating a user as an operator and user-specific output limitation setting means for setting an output limitation for each user,

said first image data transmission means also transmits, to said information processing apparatus, user information of a user who has operated output operation for image data transmitted by said first image data transmission means,

said first image data reception means also receives the user information from said first image data transmission means,

said second image data transmission means also transmits the user information received by said first image data reception means to the transfer destination address received by said first image data reception means,

said second image data reception means receives the user information from said second image data transmission means, and

said control means determines whether or not the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus IDs coincide with each other, performs control to make said image printing means print an image based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of the limitation set by said user-specific output limitation setting means.

12. (New) A system according to claim 3, wherein

at least one of said image printing apparatuses further comprises user authentication means for authenticating a user as an operator and user-specific output limitation setting means for setting an output limitation for each user,

said first image data transmission means also transmits, to said information processing apparatus, user information of a user who has operated output operation for image data transmitted by said first image data transmission means,

said first image data reception means also receives the user information from said first image data transmission means,

said second image data transmission means also transmits the user information received by said first image data reception means to the transfer destination address received by said first image data reception means,

said second image data reception means receives the user information from said second image data transmission means, and

said control means determines whether or not the apparatus ID received by said second image data reception means coincides with an apparatus ID stored in said apparatus ID storage means, and when the apparatus IDs coincide with each other, performs control to make said image printing means print an image based on the image data received by said second image data reception means on the basis of the limitation set by said user-specific output limitation setting means.

13. (New) A system according to claim 6, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data

reception means, said control means notifies an administrator of corresponding information.

14. (New) A system according to claim 7, wherein said control means performs the notification by e-mail.

15. (New) A system according to claim 7, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies an image printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image data of corresponding information, and said image printing apparatus further comprises display means for displaying information indicating reception of the notification.

16. (New) A system according to claim 8, wherein when said control means rejects image printing based on the image data received by said second image data reception means, said control means notifies an image printing apparatus as a transmission source of the image data of corresponding information, and said image printing apparatus further comprises display means for displaying information indicating reception of the notification.

17. (New) An image printing apparatus which has an image printing section for printing an image on a sheet on the basis of image data, and a first image processing section for performing image processing for the image data and which is connected,

through a network, to an information processing apparatus having a second image processing section for performing image processing for the image data, wherein

said image printing apparatus further comprises

a storage section for storing an apparatus ID which specifies the image printing apparatus itself,

a data transmission section for transmitting, to said information processing apparatus, image data to be output, an apparatus ID stored in said storage section, and a transfer destination address which is an address of a remote image printing apparatus to which the image data is to be transferred,

a setting section for setting a limitation associated with image printing of image data which is transferred from an apparatus as a transfer source other than the image printing apparatus itself,

a data reception section for receiving image data and an apparatus ID from said information processing apparatus, and

a control section for determining whether or not the transfer source of said image data is the image printing apparatus itself by confirming whether or not the apparatus ID received by said data reception section coincides with an apparatus ID which specifies the image printing apparatus itself stored in said storage section, and when said transfer source of said image data is not the image printing apparatus itself, causing said image printing section to print an image based on the image data received by said data reception section on the basis of a limitation set by said setting section.

18. (New) An image printing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said setting section can set at least a setting "always inhibiting output operation".

19. (New) An image printing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said setting section can set an upper limit value of output print count of image printing, and

said control section inhibits image printing based on said received image data, when the output print count of image printing based on said received image data reaches said upper limit value.

20. (New) An image printing apparatus according to claim 17, wherein, when said control section rejects image printing based on the received image data, said control section notifies at least one of a user who has operated output operation for the image data, an administrator, and an image printing apparatus as a transfer source of the image data, of corresponding information.